

A photograph of a person in a wooden canoe on a lake at sunset. The person is seen from behind, paddling the canoe. The water is calm, reflecting the orange and yellow light of the setting sun. The lake is covered with lily pads, and the shoreline is lined with trees and vegetation. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Boaters to Birdwatchers

The Lakes are Enjoyed by Everyone

Nestled amidst rolling hills, sparkling under forest canopies, peacefully residing near small towns and within large cities, our lakes are the natural resource that we treasure perhaps more than any other. Therefore, it is no surprise that residents and visitors alike favor recreation areas located near the water.

Lake Idemere Park, which opened in February 2003, is a new community park located north of Astatula on the CR448 extension. Visitors to this park will find a playground for children as well as a paved walking trail and bank-fishing opportunities. Future plans include extending the trail and constructing a fishing pier.

Currently under development is the PEAR Park. Located off Hull Road on the Palatka River, the park's 264 acres have been acquired by the County through a long-term lease from the State of Florida. This lush acreage will be restored with natural vegetation, and plenty of trails and open activity areas. During 2003 industrious volunteers planted hundreds of trees and have also completed a 1.5 mile nature trail along the river's banks.

Managing aquatic plants within our river and lake systems is a challenge that is handily met by our Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Management Section of the Public Works Department. The recent change from drought conditions in previous years to torrential rainfalls this

Canoeing in Lake County

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
		1 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	2	3	4	5																																																																																				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																				
13	14 <i>Flag Day</i>	15 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	16	17	18	19																																																																																				
20 <i>Father's Day</i>	21	22 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	23	24	25	26																																																																																				
27	28	29	30	<div> <div>May</div> <table> <tr><td>Su</td><td>M</td><td>Tu</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23/30</td><td>24/31</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>July</div> <table> <tr><td>Su</td><td>M</td><td>Tu</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2 3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div>			Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa							1 2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																				
						1																																																																																				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																				
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																				
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																				
						1 2 3																																																																																				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																				

past year has stimulated the aquatic plant communities to reach record high levels. Last year, Lake County focused on controlling the expansion of the three major exotic invasive aquatic plant species, hydrilla, water hyacinth, and water lettuce, in an area exceeding 650 acres. This is equivalent to about 0.8% of the total surface acres of managed water bodies within Lake County. The \$300 an acre price tag is minimal compared to the adverse financial and ecological impacts of these plants if left unmanaged.



Lake Idamere Park



Birds enjoy our many lakes



Aquatic Plant Management is vital to maintaining our lakes